

Message Text

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ORIGIN AF-18

INFO OCT-01 ADP-00 PM-07 DODE-00 CIAE-00 INR-10 NSAE-00

RSC-01 MC-02 COME-00 EB-11 /050 R

DRAFTED BY AF/RA:AJNAVEZ:HRB

8/27/73 21171

APPROVED BY AF:CGROSS

PM/MC - MR. HUMBORG

PM/MAS - MR. GREY

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ARMY - MR. JACKSON

J-5 - COL. WALTERS

OASD/ISA - MR. BADER

AF/W - MR. WALKER

----- 079772

R 282226Z AUG 73

FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY ACCRA

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: MASS, MCAP, GH

SUBJECT: COLT AR-15 SPORTER

1. DEPARTMENT CONSIDERING REQUEST FROM COLT INDUSTRIES INC., FOR MUNITIONS CONTROL LICENSE TO EXPORT SIX CAL. 223 AR-15 SPORTER MODELS WITH ASSOCIATED EQUIPMENT AND AMMUNITION TO GOG MINISTRY OF DEFENSE. VALUE OF SIX SPORTER MODELS IS DOLS 1101; 2000 ROUNDS AMMUNITION DOLS 150. PURPOSE OF THIS PROPOSED EXPORT WOULD BE TO DEMONSTRATE WEAPON TO NATIONAL POLICE FOR ITS EVALUATION WITH POSSIBILITY OF FURTHER SALES.

2. AS A MATTER OF POLICY WE HAVE PREVENTED SALES OF THE FULLY AUTOMATIC MODEL OF THE AR-15 AND ITS MILITARY VERSION,
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THE M-16A1, TO AFRICAN COUNTRIES (WITH MINOR EXCEPTIONS).

HOWEVER, THE AR-15 SPORTER MODEL IS SEMI-AUTOMATIC, NOT FULLY AUTOMATIC, AND IS AVAILABLE COMMERCIALY IN US. OTHER CHARACTERISTICS OF SPORTER BASICALLY SIMILAR TO AR-15 OR M-16. EXTENSIVE RETOOLING WOULD BE REQUIRED TO CONVERT SPORTER TO FULLY AUTOMATIC. EXPORTS OF THE AR-15 SPORTER ARE CONTROLLED ONLY FOR SHIPMENTS OF MORE THAN THREE, WHILE QUANTITIES LESS THAN THAT MAY BE SENT WITHOUT CONTROLS IN SHIPMENTS OF PERSONAL EFFECTS.

3. ON BASIS DIFFERENCE BETWEEN SPORTER MODEL AND OTHER MODELS OF THIS WEAPON OUTLINED IN PARA 2, WE WILLING TO CONSIDER APPROVING EXPORT. WOULD APPRECIATE YOUR VIEWS, WITH SPECIFIC ATTENTION TO GHANA'S ABILITY TO PAY, THE POSSIBLE EFFECT OF A NEW WEAPON ON GHANAIAAN ATTEMPTS AT WEAPONS STANDARDIZATION, THE NEED FOR SUCH BY THE NATIONAL POLICE AND THE POSSIBLE USEFULNESS TO OUR BILATERAL RELATIONS WITH THE MILITARY GOVERNMENT OF PERMITTING THIS EXPORT, AND ANY FOLLOW-ON PURCHASE.

4. ANY SALE OF AR-15 SPORTER WOULD ONLY BE CONSIDERED ON COMMERCIAL BASIS.

5. FYI: WE UNDERSTAND THAT COLT SALESMAN WHO PROMOTING THIS SALE IS SARKIS SOGHANALIAN, WHOSE REPUTATION, EVEN IN THE ARMS BUSINESS HAS BEEN QUESTIONED. END FYI GDS RUSH

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